

Application No. 10/736,656

Remarks

Applicant thanks the Examiner for his careful consideration of the application.

Claims 1 – 21 are pending in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 1 - 4, 7, 12 – 14, 19, and 21 under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Jones et al. (US Patent No. 6,530,655) ("Jones"). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

The Examiner should withdraw the rejection to claims 1, 14, and 21 as the Examiner has not shown that Jones discloses all the limitations of any of claims 1, 14, and 21. Specifically, the Examiner has not shown that Jones discloses a drip plate formed so as not to allow fluid to pass through from the second side to the first side of the drip plate. Claims 14 and 21 each include this limitation. Applicant also has amended claim 1 to include this limitation. The Examiner asserts that this limitation is disclosed by references 60A-D. However, as is clear from the figures and text of Jones, the "drip plates" 60A-D disclosed in Jones allow fluid to pass through from one side to the other of the drip plate. For example, cutouts 44 can be seen clearly in Figure 4. As the Examiner has not shown that Jones discloses all the features of any of claims 1, 14 and 21, then the Examiner should withdraw the rejection to claim 1, 14, and 21.

The Examiner should also allow claims 2 – 4, 7, 12, 13, and 19 if the Examiner allows claims 1 and 14 as claims 2 – 4, 7, 12, and 13 depend from claim 1, and claim 19 depends from claim 14.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 5 and 16 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jones in view of Allen et al (US Patent No. 5,406,315) ("Allen"). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections. For the reasons given with respect to claims 1 and 14, claims 5

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and 16 should be allowed if claims 1 and 14 are allowed as claims 5 and 16 depend from claims 1 and 14.

Allowable Subject Matter

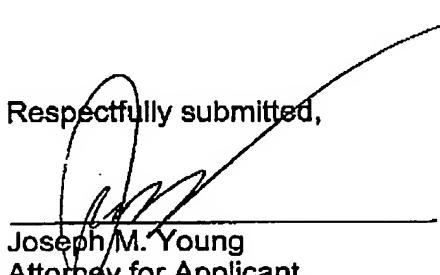
The Examiner objected to claims 6, 8 – 11, 15, 18 and 20 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant respectfully defers amending these claims as Applicant believes the underlying base claims are still patentable.

Conclusion

No additional fee is believed to be required for this amendment. However, the undersigned Xerox Corporation attorney hereby authorizes the charging of any necessary fees, other than the issue fee, to Xerox Corporation Deposit Account No. 24-0025. This also constitutes a request for any needed extension of time and authorization to charge all fees therefor to Xerox Corporation Deposit Account No. 24-0025.

A telephone interview is respectfully requested at the number listed below prior to any further Office Action, i.e., if the Examiner has any remaining questions or issues to address after this paper. The undersigned will be happy to discuss any further Examiner-proposed amendments as may be appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,


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JMY/rjc